

Standards set high by Cougar basketball coach

Taylor Oster
The Clackamas Print

Respected head coach of the men's basketball team at Clackamas Community College, Cliff Wegner had it all planned out, or so it seemed. Wegner grew up in Oakridge, Ore., a small town southeast of Eugene.

He studied mostly humanities, British and American literature, education, speech, and philosophy at Western Oregon University (also studying some at Portland State and Linfield) where he played competitively on the basketball team as guard and as a member of the baseball team.

Wegner grew up with a love for all sports, naturally having a competitive and hard-driven personality. Thinking he had his future planned out, he graduated from college intending to go to law school and pursue a legal career. Helping people is in Wegner's nature and becoming a lawyer would have given him the chance to do that.

"I wanted to fight for people's rights, ensuring them fair treatment and justice," said Wegner.

After Wegner chose to teach and coach basketball for a year, he realized that making a difference in young people's lives is how he wanted to live in the coming years.

He taught 32 years of high school English, humanities and American literature. He also coached 17 years at the high school level, including a stint at Oregon City High School.

In 1988 and 1989, his teams achieved the No. 1 ranking in state, won back to back Three Rivers League championships, and captured third at the 4A state tournament. Overall, Wegner has 36 years of coaching experience and an extensive list of accomplishments.

Wegner has a career collegiate record of 334 wins and 110 losses, with a winning percentage of 75 percent. Wegner has been honored by peers as Southern Division Coach of the Year in 2001, 2003, 2007, 2009 and 2011 and as NWAACC Coach of the Year in 2007, 2009 and 2010.

Wegner makes a difference in the lives of his athletes and powerfully encourages them to be the best student athletes they can be. He doesn't just stop at building the athletes' talent but also supports them in their educational studies. The team maintains an overall exceptional GPA.

Wegner's true passion for basketball came in March 1964 when he watched John Wooden and UCLA win the national championship.

He was "mesmerized" by the way they played basketball with passion, precision and unity.

Wegner "fell in love with basketball" during that game. It cemented college basketball as his all-time favorite sport.

Currently Wegner is in his 14th season at Clackamas Community College; he and his team have started off the year with a record of 1-1. Wegner is a man with a positive attitude and the desire to make a difference in the world, starting with the lives of student athletes. He strives to show up every day and do the best job he can and five years from now he hopes to have five more championships.

Clif Wegner Fun Facts:

Favorite NBA teams: Portland, Miami, Oklahoma City, the L.A. Clippers and L.A. Lakers.

Hobbies: listen to music; watch old movies; live theatre, work out, read, spending time with his wife Ruth and his dog Henry.



All photos by Andrew Millbrooke The Clackamas Print

Above: Men's basketball head coach Cliff Wegner is entering his 14th season at Clackamas Community College. Wegner has won more than 75 percent of his games on his way to three NWAACC championships.

Below: Clackamas' Jordan Barber hits a pretty step back jumper in the Cougars 69-65 loss against Bellevue on Sunday at Randall Gym.

Bulldogs nip Cougars, 69-65



Sophomore wing Brock Lutes (No. 15) gets ready to dish the ball as the Bellevue defense clamps down on his drive. Sophomore post Jordan Barber (No. 22) was the beneficiary of a nice pass on his roll to the hoop.



Andrew Millbrooke
Sports Editor

Clackamas Community College men's basketball team couldn't hold on to a late lead against Bellevue, as the Bulldogs stole a 69-65 victory on Sunday at Randall gym. Bulldogs freshman guard Andrew Holloway drove inside and hit a tough, off-balance shot to give Bellevue a 65-63 lead with a little over one minute remaining, then stole the ball on the Cougars next possession, putting Clackamas in a huge hole.

The Bulldogs missed two of four foul shots down the stretch, but Clackamas was denied a tying or winning basket in the final minute of this early season matchup of two of the NWAACC's top teams. Bellevue's Reggie Clinton closed

the game with two free throws for the final margin. Bellevue head coach Jeremy Eggers loves playing tough opponents early in the season.

"If we're going to get better, we got to play better players," said Eggers. "That's why I wanted to play this game, to see where we were at. Did I think this would be the outcome? No."

Bellevue played most of the game with a tallest player of 6-foot-3, but it didn't matter in the end.

"It's not the size, it's how hard you play," said Eggers. "Size doesn't matter to me. I know the saying is you can't coach height, but you also can't coach heart, and we have a lot of heart."

The teams went back and forth during an entertaining first half, before settling for a 35-35 tie at the break. Bellevue built a 10-point lead with seven minutes remaining,

but Clackamas erased it with a 13-3 run of its own to even the score, leading to the exciting finish.

Bellevue coach Eggers was impressed with what he saw out of Clackamas. "You didn't see them skip a beat, regardless of who came in the game," said Eggers. "That bodes well for them in league play."

Six-foot-two guard Andrew Squires led Bellevue with a game-high 26 points and a team-high nine rebounds, making 10 of 13 foul shots. Exciting and athletic 6-foot-2 freshman Daniel Greer was all over the court on both ends, finishing with 15 points and 6 rebounds for the Bulldogs.

Clackamas was led by freshman Michone Hopkins 17 points, six rebounds and five assists. Sophomore Brock Lutes added 11 points and a game-high 10 rebounds and Sophomore Kirby Hawkins added 15 points and four rebounds.



Got Acne?

...Get ALA-PIM

100% Money Back Guarantee!!
1-800-458-7155

www.ALA-PIM.COM



promo Code: **CCCSTUDENT**

Sports CALENDAR November 21-27

WEDNESDAY-11/21

- **NBA:** Portland at Phoenix, 6 p.m., CSN and KEX
- **Hockey:** Vancouver at Portland, 7 p.m., Rose Garden

THURSDAY-11/22

- **NFL Football:** Houston at Detroit, 9:30 a.m. on CBS
- Washington at Dallas, 1:15 p.m.
- New England at NY Jets, 5:20 p.m.

FRIDAY-11/23

- **CCC Women's Basketball:** Thanksgiving Invitational, 1 p.m.
- **CCC Men's Basketball:** Skagit Valley Cold Turkey Tournament, at Mt Vernon, Wash. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY-11/24

- **Civil War Football:** Oregon at Oregon State Noon, on the Pac-12 Network
- **Hockey:** Portland at Seattle, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY-11/25

- **NBA:** Portland at Brooklyn, Noon on CSN and KEX
- **NFL:** Seattle at Miami, 10 a.m. on Fox

MONDAY-11/26

- **Randall Fitness Center:** 8:30-10 a.m. and 1-6 p.m.
- **NFL:** Carolina at Philadelphia 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-11/27

- **Randall Fitness Center:** Noon-8 p.m.